

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /176 W

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R 191146Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2179

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0730

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, MZ

SUBJ: FRELIMO SHELLING OF PALMA IN CABO DELGADB

1. DIARIO OF OCTOBER 19 CARRIES UNUSUALLY DETAILED ACCOUNT OF FRELIMO SHELLING OF PALMA - NORTHERNMOST TOWN OF ANY SIZE IN CABO DELGADO DISTRICT.

2. ARTICLE REPORTS HEAVY ATTACK BEGAN AT 2200 HOURS OCTOBER 15 WITH MORTARS, RECOILLESS CANON, AND ROCKETS BEING FIRED FROM TWO BASES LOCATED ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTH OF PALMA AND TWO KILOMETERS APART FROM EACH OTHER. ATTACK LASTED 45 MINUTES AND RESULTED IN MATERIAL DAMAGE INCLUDING PARTIAL DESTRUCTION OF ONE TRADITIONAL HOUSE IN ALDEAMENTO OF BELA VISTA, TWO HOUSES IN OLD PALMA AND MANY BROKEN WINDOWS. CASUALTIES INCLUDED FIVE INHABITANTS KILLED (THREE MEN OF WHOM TWO WERE MILITIA, ONE WOMEN, ONE CHILD), AND 21 WOUNDED (FIVE SERIOUSLY). WOUNDED WERE EVACUATED TO PORTO AMELIA. ARTICLE LISTS NAMES OF ALL CASUALTIES.

3. FRAGMENTS OF ROCKET AND MORTAR SHELLS BEARING SIGNS IDENTIFYING THEM AS BEING OF RUSSIAN ORIGIN WERE RECOVERED

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AND PHOTOGRAPHED.

4. AFTER INITIAL PANIC AND CONFUSION, POPULACE JOINED WITH TROOPS IN PURSUING AND PUTTING ENEMY TO FLIGHT.

5. FROM INTENSITY OF FIRE, IT WAS SURMISED THAT FIVE MORTARS, TWO RECOILLESS CANON AND ONE ROCKET LAUNCHER WERE USED, REQUIRING EFFECTIVE FORCE OF ABOUT 200 MEN, MOST OF WHOM WOULD BE PORTERS CARRYING EQUIPMENT.

6. COMMENT: WHILE NOT CONFIRMED BY OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE, PHOTOGRAPHS AND FIRST HAND, ON-THE-SCENE REPORTING FROM SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BASED IN NAMPULO MAKE ABOVE ACCOUNT SEEM REASONABLY ACCURATE. FRELIMO THUS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO DESTROY OR CAPTURE POPULATED CENTER BY RELATIVELY HEAVY ATTACKS.

VAN OSS

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